

time pandering to the American people, we ought to be tough. The American people are tough. They can handle a tough choice.

The fact of the matter is that we are standing there telling the American people "We can have tax deductions, tax reductions, at the same time that we are going to be facing \$200 billion a year deficits." It is not right. The people can handle it, and we ought to say the truth.

REPEAL THE ONEROUS TAX INCREASE ON SENIOR CITIZENS' INCOMES

(Mr. COX of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COX of California. Mr. Speaker, I hope it is not considered pandering to the American people, as the previous speaker suggested, to permit our senior citizens who are receiving Social Security benefits to keep something of what they earn.

In 1993, in the context of the largest tax increase in American history, President and the then Democrat Congress imposed a 70-percent income tax rate increase on senior citizens who work. An important part of the bill that we are now bringing to the floor is going to roll that back.

It was criticized as a tax increase on seniors who are rich, on rich retirees, on rich Social Security beneficiaries. In fact, the 70-percent income tax rate increase on Social Security benefits started for senior citizens who work and who make as little as \$30,000 a year. They are not, in my book, the rich. I do not think they are anywhere else in America. I hope all of us will take this opportunity to repeal that onerous tax increase.

THE TAX BILL AND CUTS IN PROVISIONS FOR EDUCATION BENEFITS

(Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, the question before us today is what kind of tax relief are we going to give the American people. The difference could not be clearer. The Republicans' tax break would benefit 76 percent of those families earning \$100,000 or more. If you look at the Citizens for Tax Justice, they say 71 percent of the total capital gains tax breaks go to those making in excess of \$200,000.

Who pays the bill? It is young people who pay the bill. It is those who want to go out and get those well-paying jobs that the Republicans talk about. However, how can we expect them to get those well-paying jobs if they cannot first afford the higher education that they are going to need to get if they are to land those jobs?

Mr. Speaker, it was wrong to repeal the interest deduction on student loans in the 1986 tax reform bill, and it is worse that the Republicans have rescinded the amount of the money for subsidizing those student loans that allow them to get an education, and not have the interest on those student loans accrue until after they graduate. That is not right.

Members know that the cost of higher education is going up, and we should not make it more difficult for students.

THE TAX BILL WILL STRENGTHEN AMERICAN FAMILIES

(Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, the fact of the matter is that American people are going to have with this Contract With America \$180,000,000,000 in deficit reduction, \$190,000,000,000 in spending cuts, and Mr. Speaker, the tax reduction bill is the third part that the American people are waiting for.

The Republican majority is offering a \$500-per-child tax credit. We believe one of the most important things Government can do for American families is to take less of their earnings. Republicans recognize the profoundly positive impact stronger families can have on our Nation.

We believe the basic family unit can be stronger if it is able to keep more of its own earnings and make its own decisions about how those earnings should be spent.

We also respect the contributions of our senior citizens and their right to continue being a productive partner in building a better America. That is why this week Republicans will remove the tax burden placed on Social Security earnings last year by the Democrats.

Finally, Americans believe in the future. We know America's future depends on America's being able to save more and invest more in new jobs and new productivity. That is why we will reduce the capital gains tax cut, which will help all Americans.

Seventy-five percent of the tax cuts will benefit those with incomes less than \$100,000. Please vote for the bill.

A BETTER CAPITAL GAINS DEAL FOR THE WEALTHY

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, the reason we are still doing 1-minutes is because the Republican leadership is twisting the arms of their caucus to try to get the votes for this tax giveaway, the same arms that they did not twist last week when term limits was on the floor.

There was a shameful time in this country in the mid-1980's when the largest, most profitable corporations in

the land paid no income taxes, and we are about to turn back the clock. This bill repeals a modest income tax on the largest, most profitable corporations in this country, so they can go back to paying zero.

People who earn over \$200,000 a year, they can get capital gains at 14 percent. That is half of the tax bracket for middle income Americans. Is it not a great country when people, Members of Congress earning \$133,000 a year, can vote themselves a wonderful juicy tax break, because they are in a big enough tax bracket to take advantage of it?

When the dust settles, average Americans are going to get it stuck to them again, and the rich are going to be drinking champagne and eating caviar.

REPUBLICANS READY TO INTRODUCE TAX LEGISLATION

(Mr. GOSS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, responding to the previous speaker, I would just like to announce that I do not believe anybody on our side asked him to take a 1-minute, or anybody else over there to take a 1-minute. We are ready to go. We are ready do the Nation's business on the rule.

The minute the 1-minutes are over, we will be very happy to proceed.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GOSS. I am happy to yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, we are so excited to bring up this last of the contract promises. Let's go.

Mr. GOSS. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Speaker, I would point out that the sooner we start, the better prospects are, the sooner we will get out.

THE \$63,000 TAX GIVEAWAY TO RUPERT MURDOCH

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I have the opportunity now to respond to some of the charges that the gentleman from Texas [Mr. ARCHER], chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, raised previously.

It is just absolutely absurd. There is not one person in this building, in this district, in this country that believes Senator BRAUN on her own was able to provide the obscene, sleazy \$63 million gift to Rupert Murdoch. It just defies credibility.

There is an expression that I have used, and I think everyone in this country has heard previously. It is look like a duck and it smells like a duck and it walks like a duck and it talks like a duck, it is probably a duck. To